avail the exemptions under the stated notification. This option can be exercised once during the year.

However, at the time of moving the Finance Bill, 1997 in the Lok Sabha, the Finance Minister has stated that after consultation with the SSI sector, an alternative scheme would be notified under which the SSI units will be eligible to avail of MODVAT even while paying concessional excise, duty under the existing dispensation. For the present, the scheme which came into force from 01.04.1997 continues to operate.

[Translation]

Tribunals for pending Cases

6677. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some tribunals had been set up with the of removing delay in justice and providing justice expeditiously;

if so, the dates on which these tribunals had been set up;

(c) whether the said objectives has not been achieved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of cases pending in each tribunal, till date; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of these tribunals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (f) A number of Tribunals have been set up by the Government under various Acts for dealing with cases arising under these Acts. These Tribunals are under the administrative control of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India. The Law Commission of India has undertaken a study on the functioning of the Tribunals.

(b) & (e) The Income-tax Appellate Tribunal and the Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board which are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Law and Justice were set up on 25.1.1941 and 1.1.1974 respectively. The number of cases pending in the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal (as on 1.5.1997) and the FERA Board (as on 13.5.1997) are 3,01,034 and 4,408 respectively.

[English]

Grant of New Registration to Farmers by Tobacco Board

6678. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the methods followed by Tobacco Board for granting new registration to farmers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the field officers are unable to help to the tobacco farmers; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the situation and functioning of the Tobacco Board in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Tobacco Board grants registration to the tobacco farmers under the relevant provisions of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 and the Tobacco Board Rules, 1976. The Tobacco Board each year fixes the crop size of FCV tobacco and lays down the policy for regulating its production keeping in view the international and domestic demand and carry over stocks, if any. Registration Committee of the Board lays down criteria for registration/reneeal of registration keeping the production policy of the Board in view. Notice inviting applications for renewal of registration or for grant of new registrations are given wide publicity in the local press and are also displayed on the notice board of all Tobacco Board offices.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Coal Washeries

6679. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new coal washing capacity added through modernisation/capacity expansion/establishment of new coal washeries during the last three years and investment made thereon;

(b) whether production of washed coal remained stagnant during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the estimated demand for washed coal during 1997-98 and the Ninth Plan period and new policy